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## EDITORIALS

# Intelligence Has Major Bearing On Outcome of Berlin Situation

HOW THE CURRENT Berlin crisis will be resolved depends in no small measure upon the astuteness of intelligence agencies, ours and Russia's. Serious misestimates of military capacity or intent by agents for either side could lead to war maneuvering on false premises. The result might be hot war in the nature of an accident, but nonetheless cataclysmic.

At times like these we can only hope our own Central Intelligence Agency knows its onions. For whatever comfort it may bring, Robert Amory Jr., CIA deputy director, said the other day that the Russians "haven't got what it takesationally to challenge us this spring." He went on in a little-publicized address in South Carolina, to list reasons for this estimate—among them that "their economy is by no means mobilized for war or preparing for war."

Mr. Amory expressed belief that, if the United States remains firm in its

Berlin negotiations, the Russians will back away from their "get out" ultimatum. This seems to square with the resolute tack President Eisenhower has been taking.

We must hope the Kremlin chieftains have been informed that our war-making prowess is formidable and that we will fight for our rights in Berlin, if we must. Underestimates by Soviet intelligence of our strength and resolve would increase the likelihood of war.

But, assuming Mr. Amory's remarks reflect the truth, and that Russia's leaders are likewise well-informed, war over Berlin remains a grisly possibility. Despots are not always rational. Push them too far and they may trigger conflict regardless of the consequences. But Ike's firmness would be the only sensible course, though Russia appeared ready to fight. To weaken would be to hasten disaster, where a stiff backbone might stave it off.

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